

1. The process for automatically adjusting a time period of a time slot in a communication channel, comprising the steps of:

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determining whether data are being transmitted in a time slot in said communication channel;

adjusting said time slot to a first time period if data are being transmitted in said time slot; and

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adjusting said time slot to a second time period if data are not being transmitted in said time slot.

2. The process of claim 1 wherein said first time period is greater than said second time period.

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3. The process of claim 1 further comprising the step of determining whether the data being transmitted comprises a particular data type.

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4. The process of claim 3 further comprising the step of adjusting said time slot to a third time period, if said data comprises a particular data type.

5. The process of claim 4 wherein said first time period is greater than said second time period.

6. The process of claim 5 wherein said third time period is greater than said first time period.

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7. The process of automatically adjusting a time period of a time slot in a data channel, comprising the steps of:

determining the content of the time slot in said data channel; and

adjusting the time period of the time slot in response to the content of the time slot.

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8. The process of claim 7 further comprising the step of increasing said time period of said time slot when a particular data type is being transmitted in said time slot.

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9. The process of claim 7 further comprising the step of decreasing said time period of said time slot when a particular data type is being transmitted in said time slot.

15 10. The process of claim 7 further comprising the step of decreasing said time period of said time slot when no data are being transmitted in said time slot.

11. A system for communicating data among different units,
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a data channel having a plurality of time slots for transmitting and receiving data;

25 each unit comprising a microprocessor coupled to said data channel for monitoring and processing data; and

said microprocessor adjusting a time period of one of said time slots depending on content of the time slot.

30 12. The system of claim 11 wherein said microprocessor adjusting the time slot to a first time period if the data are

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transmitted, and adjusting the time slot to a second time period if no data are being transmitted.

13. The system of claim 12 wherein said first time period is greater than said second time period.

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14. The system of claim 12 wherein said microprocessor further determining whether the data being transmitted comprise a particular data type.

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15. The system of claim 14 wherein said controller adjusts said time slot to a third time period, if the data comprise a particular data type.

15 16. The system of claim 15 wherein said first time period is greater than said second time period.

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17. The system of claim 16 wherein said third time period is greater than said first time period.